

## DESCRIPTION OF ARGENTINA SYRTENSIIUM, A NEW DEEP-SEA FISH FROM SABLE ISLAND BANK.

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON H. BEAN.

The United States Fish Commission has lately received from Capt. Joseph W. Collins, of the schooner Marion, of Gloucester, Mass., and from Mr. R. L. Newcomb, of Salem, who accompanied him on this voyage as a collector, an apparently undescribed species of *Argentina*. A single specimen was taken September 4, 1878, from the stomach of a hake (*Phycis tenuis?*) hooked on a halibut trawl-line, set in 200 fathoms of water, on Sable Island Bank, off the coast of Nova Scotia. This fish (No. 21,624) is about 17 inches long and in a dilapidated condition, having been partially digested by its first captor. The tips of the fins, especially, are much frayed out. The measurements, however, are believed to be very nearly exact.

*Argentina syrtensium*, sp. nov.

*Description*.—Body compressed, resembling in form that of *Silus Ascanii* Reinhardt (= *Argentina silus* (Asc.) Nillson); its height contained about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  times in its length without caudal, and slightly greater than twice the diameter of the orbit; its greatest width one-tenth of total length; its height at ventrals contained about  $5\frac{3}{4}$  times in the same and equal to thrice least height of body at the caudal peduncle.

Length of head slightly less than twice its greatest height, and slightly more than one-fourth of the length of the body; its greatest width is twice that of the interorbital area. The length of the snout equals that of the operculum, is slightly greater than that of the maxillary, and is contained not quite  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times in the length of the head.

The first dorsal fin is inserted midway between snout-tip and adipose dorsal fin; its basal length equal to the height of its first ray, and slightly more than half that of the longest ray; it is also equal to the orbital diameter and the length of the mandible; the last dorsal ray is slightly longer than the height of the caudal peduncle.

The adipose dorsal fin is inserted in the perpendicular from the seventh anal ray; its basal length, which is two-thirds of its height, being about equal to one-tenth of the length of the head.

The anal fin is inserted in the perpendicular from the 44th or 45th scale of the lateral line, its length of base slightly greater than length of the mandible, its first ray one-third as long as its third ray, its last ray equalling in height the adipose dorsal.

The caudal is deeply forked, its external ray  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as its median rays.

The pectoral is inserted close to the branchial opening; its length is equal to three-fifths of the distance of its insertion from the snout-tip,

extending posteriorly to about the twelfth scale of the lateral line and more than half-way to the origin of the ventrals.

The ventral is inserted midway between the snout-tip and the insertion of the caudal fin, and in the perpendicular from the posterior dorsal ray; its length equals half the distance from the origin of the pectoral to that of the ventral.

*Radial formula.*—B. VI; D. 12; A. 13; C. 13, 18, 12; P. 18; V. II, 12.

*Scales.*— $3\frac{1}{2}$ , 60, 4. The scales are cycloid, with the posterior edge emarginate, the exposed surface covered with minute asperities; as in some, and perhaps all other members of this group, single rows of scales saddle the dorsal and the abdominal ridges of the body. The scales are very large: one from the abdominal row, directly behind the ventrals, measuring  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ ; one from the lateral line,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ , the unit of measurement being the hundredth of body-length. One of the scales of the lateral line, detached, is broad enough to cover the exposed surfaces of five others in the same line.

*Color.*—The color is considerably obliterated, but appears to have been similar to that of the common smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), with perhaps more of a metallic lustre.

The species, according to Mr. Newcomb, has a cucumber-like smell, resembling that of the smelt.

*Table of Measurements.*

Current number of specimen .....	21,624.	
	Stable Island Bank. Stomach of Hake.	
Locality .....	Millim.	100ths.
Extreme length without caudal .....	382	.....
Length to end of middle caudal rays .....	408	.....
Body:		
Greatest height .....		19
Greatest width .....		10
Height at ventrals .....		17.5
Least height of tail .....		5.75
Length of caudal peduncle .....		.....
Head:		
Greatest length .....		26
Greatest height .....		.....
Greatest width .....		10
Width of interorbital area .....		5
Length of snout .....		7
Length of operculum .....		7
Length of maxillary .....		$6\frac{1}{2}$
Length of mandible .....		9
Diameter of orbit .....		9
Dorsal (first):		
Distance from snout .....		43
Length of base .....		9
Length of longest ray .....		17
Length of first ray .....		9
Length of second ray .....		$15\frac{1}{2}$
Length of last ray .....		6.3
Dorsal (soft):		
Length of base .....		$2\frac{1}{2}$
Distance from snout .....		85
Anal:		
Distance from snout .....		83
Length of base .....		$9\frac{1}{2}$
Length of first ray .....		3
Length of longest ray .....		9
Length of last ray .....		2.66

Table of Measurements—Continued.

	Millim.	100ths.
Caudal:		
Length of middle rays .....		7
Length of external rays .....		17
Pectoral .....		
Distance from snout .....		25
Length .....		ca. 15½
Ventral:		
Distance from snout .....		50
Length .....		ca. 12
Branchiostegals .....	VI	
Dorsal .....	12	
Anal .....	13	
Caudal .....	XIII, 18, XII	
Pectoral .....	18	
Ventral .....	II, 12	
Number of scales in lateral line .....	ca. 60	
Number of transverse rows above lateral line .....	ca. 3½	
Number of transverse rows below lateral line .....	ca. 4	

WASHINGTON, November 23, 1878.

**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE OCEANIC BONITO, *ORCYNUS PELAMYS*,  
(LINNÉ) POEY, IN VINEYARD SOUND, MASSACHUSETTS.**

**By VINAL N. EDWARDS.**

Mr. P. Stewart has caught between 80 and 100 of them in his pound\* in about three weeks. He caught 52 one morning. In Luce's pound\* they have caught between 60 and 70. They catch them with a northerly wind; none with the wind off shore. They will not live long in the pound, but will run themselves to death, and their brilliant blue color all fades out as soon as they are dead.

WOOD'S HOLL, MASS., October 1, 1878.

**NOTES ON THE WESTERN GIZZARD SHAD, *DOROSOMA CEPEDIANUM HETERURUM*, (RAF.) JORDAN.**

**By SAMUEL WILMOT.**

SIR: I send you by post a small fish taken by one of our fishermen at Sarnia on Lake Huron. It was sent to me by one of our officers, with a request that I should let him know what sort of fish it was. It seems they think it to be a young shad. Fish very similar in appearance to this one have been known in Lake Ontario and other of our waters for many years; I recollect them forty years ago. They were not taken numerously in those days, a few being captured at times in seines, and sometimes in gill-nets, which were set out in very deep waters in the lake for the purpose of taking salmon trout: those taken in the gill-nets would be sometimes a pound in weight; the great run of them, however,

\*These pounds are in Menemsha Bight, Martha's Vineyard.